**Chapter 12: The Similarities Between Operant Conditioning and Natural Selection**

**Web Exercise**

Superstitious Behavior

Superstitions are when there is a chance occurrence of a reward, but the reward is not contingent on any specific behavior being performed.

Go to <http://www.psychologistworld.com/superstition.php>. Skinner’s original study with pigeons is discussed where he discovers his experimental pigeons demonstrating superstitious behavior. Along the right hand side then are examples of human superstitions.

1. Have you ever found yourself believing in one of these superstitions? If so, when and how?
2. Give other examples of human superstitions?
3. Do you believe there is any truth to superstitious behavior or is it what is considered an “old wives’ tale”?